EPOC COLORADO
The Equal Protection Campaign
Box 300476
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 839-5540

The American Civil Liberties Union, Colorado Hispanic Institute, Black Women for Political Action, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Colorado League of Women Voters, and all the organizations listed below urge a NO vote on Amendment #2. It goes too far!

July 31, 1992

Dear Friend:

"Indivisible ... with liberty and justice for all."

We have devoted our lives to helping America live up to those words.

We have won some. We've lost some.

In 1992, we face one of our toughest battles. We are writing with a simple but urgent request: We need you -- right now -- to write and mail a check to help with this battle.

This is too important to mince words: If you care about protecting your basic civil rights in Colorado, it is time to put your money where your mouth is.

Members of a group called Colorado for Family Values are deadly serious about enshrining their personal morality in the Colorado Constitution. Through Ballot Amendment #2, they want to outlaw the basic civil rights of Coloradans who are gay or lesbian.

This is how it starts. First they come for those on the margins of society -- those who are least understood. Then, strengthened and emboldened by success, they move toward their real goal.

Make no mistake -- their real goal is to remake society in their own image. We see diversity as a strength. They see diversity as a weakness and are intent on doing away with it.

We are writing to you because we know you share our concern about what this politics of division is doing to America. We can solve our problems, but only if we pull together, not pull apart. Passing Amendment #2 would be a tragic mistake for Colorado.

We also are writing because we know you want to be a part of this fight, and you understand it will take money to win.

Already, Colorado for Family Values is buying ad time on television --- preparing to flood Colorado with propaganda that right wing groups have used effectively in other states to confuse voters and kill rights.

That's why your help is critical. All that is necessary for Amendment #2 to pass is for good people to stay silent. Writing a check is a powerful way to break the silence, to sound the alarm, to make a real difference.

EPOColorado is the group fighting Amendment #2. It's an impressive organization of committed volunteers and a seasoned staff. Those in charge bring years of political experience at the local, state and national level. We are confident that EPOColorado brings to this campaign the skill to win. We wouldn't ask you to contribute if that weren't so.

But what EPOColorado doesn't yet bring to this campaign is the **money** to win. Only *you* can do that -- you and the many others who care deeply about protecting basic civil rights for all Americans.

Frankly, writing the largest check you can to EPOColorado is the single most important thing you can do to defeat Amendment #2.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Rodriguez
Human Rights Activist

Steven Foster
State Civil Rights Commissioner

James H. Joy
Executive Director, Colorado ACLU

Rev. James D. Peters, Jr.
Former Representative, Southern Christian Leadership Conference 1963-68

P.S. Are you as angry as we are about the resurgence of bigotry in American politics? Opposing Amendment #2 is our chance to fight back. We can hand the forces of bigotry a major defeat in Colorado, but only if we have the money to get *our* message out to counter their lies.

Turn your anger into action. Write and mail a check today to EPOColorado. Of all the contributions you can make this political year, this one could well be the most important.

Authorized by EPOColorado, Inc. Printed by Volunteers. Maria Garcia Berry, Treasurer LTR067

Colorado to Vote on Barring Gay-Rights Laws

DENVER, May 23 (AP) — A proposal that would bar any civil rights measures intended specifically to protect homosexuals, lesbians or bisexuals has won enough support to be placed on the November ballot in Colorado, and leaders throughout the state are already choosing sides.

Colorado for Family Values, a group formed to "stop gay activists before they trample on your freedoms," received word from Secretary of State Natalie Meyer last week that its initiative would appear on the ballot. The group had gathered 65,000 valid signatures in support of the proposal, 16,000 more than needed.

The measure would prohibit the state from passing any civil rights laws specifically protecting homosexuals, lesbians or bisexuals. In addition, it would void existing laws in Denver, Boulder and Aspen that ban anti-gay bias in housing, employment and health and welfare services.

Kevin Tebedo, founder of Colorado for Family Values, said the initiative had sprung from the group's successful campaign against a gay rights measure in Colorado Springs last year. Homosexuals already have protections under the United States Constitution, Mr. Tebedo said, and do not need "special rights."

Mr. Tebedo's initiative has won support from the University of Colorado's football coach, Bill McCartney, who has called homosexuality "an abomination of almighty God," and from former Senator Bill Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong, a Republican who served in the Senate from 1978 to 1990, wrote in a fund-raising letter for the initiative that further civil rights protections would "force you and me to give our state's legal blessing to aberrant homosexual behavior and life styles."

He also described the AIDS epidemic as the "self-created miseries of pleasure-addicted gays" and said taxpayers should not have to shoulder the burden of AIDS treatment through higher insurance premiums.

The opponents are being organized by a group called the Equal Protection Campaign, which calls the measure an attempt at "legalized discrimination." They argue that housing and employment protections for homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals are not specified in the Constitution.

Among the opponents is Gov. Roy Romer, who has said he will not "allow Colorado to become a place where prejudice has a home."

Also opposing the initiative is Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver, who said, "Those who would legislate discrimination do not represent the family values I was raised with or the family values of the majority of people of Denver or of this state."

Across the country, Amendment #2 is recognized as a major attack on civil rights ...

VOTING NO

THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RESOLVED TO OPPOSE AMENDMENT #2

American Civil Liberties Union
American Jewish Committee, Colorado Chapter
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
AIDS/HIV Interfaith Network of Colorado
AT&T LEAGUE
Colo Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Colo Black Women for Political Action
Colo Chicano Student Network
Colo Democratic Party
Colo Domestic Violence Coalition
Colo Education Assn.
Colo Federation of Business and Professional Women
Colo Institute for Hispanic Education and Economic Development
Colo League of Women Voters
Colo Lesbian and Gay Psychologists
Colorado NOW
Colo Psychological Assn.
Colo Society for Clinical Social Work
Colo Women's Bar Assn.
Governor's AIDS Council
Hispanic Women's Caucus
Mountain States Coalition Against Malicious Harassment
National Assn. of Social Workers, Colo Chapter
Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) of Denver, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Western Colorado and Eastern Colorado
U.S. WEST EAGLE
U.S. WEST Women, Colorado Chapter
U.S. WEST Pluralism Council

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Abigail Adams Aurora NOW Chapter
Associated Students of Colorado State University
Associated Students of Fort Lewis College
Association of Flight Attendants AFL-CIO Council 9
Bertha Capen Reynolds Society, Colorado Chapter
Boulder County Bar Assn.
Central Denver Chapter NOW
Chicano Unity Council
Boulder City Council
Westminster City Council
Colorado Tavern Guild
Denver Classroom Teachers Association
Denver Int'l Film Society
Denver Mayor's Gay & Lesbian Advisory Committee
Denver Women's Commission
El Paso County NOW Chapter
Fort Collins Commission on the Status of Women
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado
Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver
Hakomi Institute
IBEW, Local 111
LEGACEY
The Legal Center
Lundy Foundation
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan Central
OCAW, Local 2-920, AFL-CIO
New Jewish Agenda
Parents AIDS Outreach of Grand Junction
Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission
Rocky Mountain Career Women's Association
Rocky Mountain Peace Center
Rocky Mountain Sane Freeze
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Student Government, CCD
Student Representative Council, UNC
Students for Reproductive Choice, CU-Boulder
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7
Urban League Metro Denver
Vision Hispanica Alumni Assn.
Western Colorado Congress
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Boulder & Greeley
Women's Therapy Associates
YWCA of Metropolitan Denver

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Capitol Hill United Ministries
10:30 Catholic Community
Capitol Heights Presbyterian
Central Presbyterian
East Side Christian
First Unitarian Society
Our Saviour's Lutheran
Sixth Avenue United Methodist
St. Paul's United Methodist
St. Paul's Lutheran
St. Barnabas Episcopal
Unity Temple
Warren United Methodist
Denver Area Interfaith Clergy Conference
Evangelicals Concerned, Western Region
Foothills Unitarian Church of Fort Collins
Greeley Interfaith Association
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Auraria
Metropolitan Community Church, Mid-Central District
MCC of the Rockies
MCC of Pueblo
MCC Family in Christ
Pikes Peak MCC
MCC Pioneer Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns
Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ
Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synagogue Council of Greater Denver

... and still growing!